

Bernalillo County Commission Chair

Lonnie Talbert Visiting Catopia



All About District 4:

Commission Chair Lonnie Talbert has served as District 4 Commissioner since 2012.

District 4 includes the northeast side of the Cibola National Forest (east of Sandia Peak), Sandia Heights, North Albuquerque Acres, parts of the North Valley, the far north Bosque, and Paradise Hills. Lonnie is deeply committed to supporting community and philanthropic groups and has served many non-profit organizations in a leadership role.

Speaking of Mr. Talbert's support... one local business Mr. Talbert is fond of is a quirky and fun hangout spot located within Albuquerque's Paseo Village:

Catopia Cat Café. Read on to understand why --



Owner Sandy Dierks (right) with friend Stephanie Skaggs

Catopia Cat Café: Helping ABQ's Kitties One Adoption at a Time

Meet Sandy Dierks.

She's a feline-focused entrepreneur who supports animals, community, and connection through her business, Catopia.

Located along Paseo and Wyoming lies a quaint family-owned café filled with locally-sourced snacks, coffee, tea, wifi, and... adoptable kitties. Catopia Cat Café is aimed at bringing people together and finding these felines forever homes.

And Dierks' plan is working. She's a little over a year into business and 120+ cats have been adopted thus far.

"They get really friendly with people, because people are coming in and out all the time. They just get to be really easy-going and socialized."

For a nominal \$5 fee (per hour),

"We started working with Bernalillo County in October ('19), and they're really wonderful. They're just working so hard at making things better. The cats that they send us are healthy and they've been well cared for and they're socialized already." - Sandy Dierks

visitors can spend time with about twenty adoptable cats while having coffee and browsing the web. Internet coffee shops that feature adoptable cats are a new trend in the United States, and there are

currently around a hundred cat cafés around the country. However, Dierks' shop is the only one in Albuquerque.

Each cat has been spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, and is up-to-date on vaccinations. Additionally, all food and beverages the café offers are prepackaged to ensure sanitary conditions. Catopia also offers a gift shop for cat lovers as well as fun events such as, "Yoga with Cats" and "Painting with Cats." You can even book a private event for yourself and friends – and if that isn't enough, you could even get a henna "Cat-too."

Dierks' love for animals was apparent early on in her life, as her father is a retired veterinarian.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

415 Tijeras NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-468-7185

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Click [here](#) to learn more about Bernalillo County Economic Development.

WANT MORE DISTRICT 4?

To learn more about what's happening in District 4, [click here](#).

WHERE TO FIND CATOPIA

8001 Wyoming NE, Suite 5
Albuquerque, NM 87113
505-508-4278

COVID-19 RESOURCES

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA):
Employee Paid Leave Rights

- Employees: [Fact Sheet for Employees](#)
- Employers: [Fact Sheet for Employers](#)
- FAQ's: [Addresses Critical Questions](#), for Paid Leave under the new Act.
- How small businesses can obtain an exemption;
- How to count hours for part-time employees;
- What documentation employees have to provide to employers;
- How to calculate the wages employees are entitled to under this law; and more.
- **FFCRA Rights Poster**
- [The FFCRA Rights Poster](#) outlines details of the new, temporary, paid sick and family medical leave programs that can be distributed to employees.

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

- [Information for Workers Affected by COVID-19](#)
- [Unemployment Fact Sheet](#)
- [Información para Trabajadores Afectados por COVID-19](#)

NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- [Help for Businesses Negatively Impacted by the COVID-19 Health Emergency](#)
- NMEDD COVID-19 Business Loan Guarantee Program
- LEDA Zero-Percent Interest Loans
- [Buy for Tomorrow Today](#) Website to support NM local businesses and purchase gift cards online.
- [Webinars \(on NMEDD's Youtube\)](#)
- Recording on Friday, March 13, 2020, [Information & Resources for Businesses with NMEDD](#), NM Department of Health, NM Department of Workforce

Solutions, and the Small Business Administration.

- Recording of Monday, March 30, 2020, [Business Loan Guarantee Program: Updates for Lenders](#)
- Recording of Friday, April 3, 2020, [COVID-19 NM Response: Update on Business Resources](#)
- Contact Information
- Mark Roper: 575-562-0327; Mark.Roper@state.nm.us

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- [Coronavirus Relief Options](#)
- COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- Express Bridge Loan
- Small Business Administration Debt Relief
- District Office Contact: 505-248-8225 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

The New Mexico Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can assist businesses complete the Federal SBA loan program applications. Please find below SBDC contact information for the Albuquerque area:

- **Fran Fernandez**
Interim Center Director
ffernandez10@cnm.edu
 - **Kristin Groves**
Business Advisor
kgroves@cnm.edu
 - **Liliana Reyes**
Business Advisor
lrio@cnm.edu
- For health-related questions, call 1-855-600-3453
All other questions: 1-833-351-0518 or go to <http://www.newmexico.gov/>

IN THE COMMUNITY

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"My dad was a veterinarian in the South Valley where I grew up, and I worked at the veterinary hospital for a while. We grew up with cats and dogs, as well as outdoor animals such as horses."

Right before she opened her café, she worked as a medical transcriptionist for a local orthopedic surgeon. Once he retired though, the idea of opening her own business came to mind. Furthermore, she wanted to find a creative way to help animals in Albuquerque. Her journey wasn't exactly an



easy one though.

"I didn't know anything about opening a business. In the beginning, it was hard to figure

out regulations because the health department didn't know what to do with us. We didn't know if we'd be able to get approved."

Needless to say, she did. "There's so many resources that I don't think people realize are there." Notable resources Dierks mentioned are Bernalillo County Animal Care Center, the Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department, Desert Paws NM, SCORE Mentors, and surprisingly – a Facebook group directly for cat café owners.

For people who are not interested in adopting but want to help the Catopia felines, donations of food, litter and other cat necessities are welcome.

BERNALILLO COUNTY FILM CORNER



We at Bernalillo County Economic Development are proud to announce that we have officially launched our film permit service online! Find more information and apply for a film permit at filmbernco.com.